

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, NU

SUBJECT: SPEECH BY RAMIRO SACASA GUERRERO

BACKGROUND: ON 30 JULY, THE CONSTITUTIONALIST LIBERAL MOVEMENT (MLC), WHOSE PRESIDENT IS RAMIRO SACASA GUERRERO, INAUGURATED ITS NEW LEADERSHIP. MLC IS A LIBERAL SPLINTER GROUP WHICH BROKE FROM THE RULING LIBERAL PARTY IN LATE 1960'S. IT IS ANTI-SOMOZA AND PART OF USDEL. SACASA WAS FORMERLY A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF SOMOZA--SERVING IN MANY HIGH POSITIONS SUCH AS MINISTER OF LABOR AND OF EDUCATION UNTIL THE BREAK WITH SOMOZA. END BACKGROUND.

1. AS EXPECTED, SACASA'S REMARKS DURING THE MLC INAUGURATION WERE HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE GON. HE BEGAN BY CALLING FOR SOMOZA TO RESIGN. THE SPEECH WAS LENGTHY ONE, WITH A GOOD PORTION DEVOTED TO PAYING THE RITUAL HOMAGE TO PEDRO JAQUIN CHAMORRO CARDENAL AS WELL AS RECOGNIZING THE PRESENCE OF THE OTHER OPPOSITION LEADERS IN ATTENDANCE.

2. OF THE MAJOR POLITICAL OPPOSITION GROUPS, ONLY THE FSLN,
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"THE TWELVE", AND THE AGUERO FACTION OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY WERE NOT RECOGNIZED DURING THE SPEECH. THE ABSENCE OF "THE TWELVE" WAS EXPLAINED BY A PREVIOUS COMMITMENT IN GRANADA. (NOTE: WHERE LA PRENSA REPORTED THEY DREW A CROWD OF FOUR THOUSAND. END NOTE). THE FSLN, HOWEVER, DID RECEIVE PRAISE BOTH FROM SACASA AND, ESPECIALLY THE AUDIENCE--WITH MANY FSLN SLOGANS SHOUTED.

3. IN CRITICIZING THE GON, SACASA SAID THAT" TO GOVERN...
IS TO PROCURETHE GENERAL WELFARE THROUGH BETTER USAGE OF
RESOURCES, TRYING TO CONFRONT PROBLEMS WITH EQUITABLE NORMS
THAT RECONCILE DIVERSE INTERESTS." BLAMING NICARAGUA'S CURRENT
TROUBLES ON "A REGIME OF FORCE WHICH INVADES ALL AND DESTROYS
ALL," SACASA CALLED FOR A CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP. "THE HOUR HAS
ARRIVED," HE SAID, "FOR THOSE WHO HAVE CAUSED SO MUCH DAMAGE
AND SO MUCH PAIN TO NICARAGUA TO RETIRE FROM PUBLIC LIFE AND
OPEN THE PATH TO A NEW LEGAL ORDER, PLURALISTIC AND DEMOCRATIC."

4. SACASA SAID THAT NICARAGUANS HAD BEEN TREATED AS OUTCASTS
IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY, SUFFERING PERSECUTIION FOR WANTING A FREE
COUNTRY. OUT OF THIS PERSECUTION, HAS GROWN A PEOPLE
CONSCIOUS OF ITS ABILITY AND ITS DESTINY, UNITED AND
ORGANIZED, WHICH HAS BEGUN "A CIVIC STRUGGLE WITHOUT PRE-
CEDENT WHICH WILL CULMINATE IN THE ERADICATION OF THE DICTATOR-
SHIP." DENIGRATING ILLUSORY REFORMS OF THE GON, SACASA SAID
THAT THE PEOPLE RECOGNIZE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN REALITY AND
THE "DEAD LETTER OF MANY DISPOSITIONS; BETWEEN SERIOUS AND
AUTHENTIC REFORM AND SLOGANS OF OFFICIAL PROPAGANDA; AND
BETWEEN THE SINCERITY OF ITS LABOR LEADERS AND THE TRICKS
OF FALSE LEADERS AND TRUE EXPLOITERS."

5. LATE INVITATIONS FOR DIALOG WERE USELESS, HE SAID,
CITING THE GON'S HISTORY OF DECEPTION AND FRAUD. "IF HE (SOMOZA)
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REALLY DESIRES TO DIALOG WITH THE OPPOSITION TO FIND A
DEMOCRATIC SOLUTION TO THE POLITICAL PROBLEM OF NICARAGUA,
IT IS TIME FOR HIM TO CONSIDER THE MOST PRACTICAL FORMULA;
THAT IS TO RESIGN. DIALOG WITH SOMOZA IS ONLY POSSIBLE BASED
ON THE ERADICATION OF THE DICTATORSHIP."

6. SACASA THEN SAID THAT HE FELT THERE WAS STILL TIME TO
FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION IF THE GON WOULD "PUT ITS CARDS ON
THE TABLE. CERTAIN STEPS WOULD SERVE TO DEMONSTRATE THE SINCERITY
OF THE ...REPEATED DECLARATIONS OF GENERAL SOMOZA DEBAYLE,"
HE SAID. THESE INCLUDED:

A) THE SEPARATION OF "TACHITO" FROM THE GN, B) REPEAL OF
THE RADIO AND TELEVISION CODE, C) AN END TO GOVERNMENTAL CORRUPTION,
D) THE SELECTIONOF A NEW CHIEF DIRECTOR OF THE GN FROM AMONG
CAREER OFFICERS UNRELATED TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE SEPARATION OF
"SHOCK TROOPS" FROM POLICE FUNCTIONS, E) REFORM OF ELECTORAL
ORGANIS TO INCLUDE ALL POLITICAL PARTIES,
F) FULL POLITICAL PARTICIPATION FOR ALL, REGARDLESS OF IDEOLOGY
AND A GENERAL POLITICAL AMNESTY. SACASA CONCLUDED WITH A CALL
FOR FACTIONLESS UNITY.

7. COMMENT: THE AUDIENCE COMPOSITION FOR SACASA'S SPEECH

IS AN INDICATION OF GROWING INTERNAL DIALOG BETWEEN VARIOUS
OPPOSITION FACTIONS--MANY OF WHICH ARE FAVORABLY DISPOSED
TOWARD THE FSLN. AT THE SAME TIME, A GROWING RECOGNITION OF THE
DANGEROUS DRIFT TOWARD CHAOS WHICH THE CURRENT VIOLENT SITUATION
PROMOTES APPEARS TO BE TAKING HOLD AMONG THE RESPONSIBLE OPPOS-
TION. IT MAY BE THAT SACASA'S SPECIFIC STEPS NOTED IN PARA 6
CONSTITUTE A NEW ATTEMPT AT OPENING A DIALOG. AN INTERESTING
FOOTNOTE IS THAT, WHILE SACASA WAS SPEAKING, AN ASSOCIATE OF
HIS MADE A SPECIAL POINT OF CROWDING THE ROOM AND WHISPERING
TO POLOFF THAT, "WE HAVE NOT ABANDONED OR LOST FAITH IN DEMOCRACY."
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